City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	Lafayette City Council
By:	Michael Hubbard, Chief of Police
Date Written:	September 16, 2008
Meeting Date:	September 22, 2008
Subject:	Supplemental Law Enforcement Funding

Introduction

The City of Lafayette receives a minimum of $100,000 per year in Supplemental Law Enforcement Funds pursuant to AB 3229 (also known as COPS Funds). For the past Five (5) years these funds have been used to partially fund the salaries of two (2) full-time Police Officers. The City of Lafayette traditionally enacts a proposed budget during a public hearing in June, prior to the start of the fiscal year. These funds were originally budgeted in June along with the remainder of the budget for the fiscal year. Government Code section 30061(c)(1) requires that the appropriation of these funds be acted on by Council "at a public hearing held in the month of September each year".

The Contra Costa County Auditor-Controller will not transfer funds to the city without proof of such a hearing (see attached communication from the Contra Costa Supplemental Law Enforcement Oversight Committee).

Discussion

Pursuant to Government Code Section 30061(c)(1) the Chief of Police is required to make written request to the Council for funding of front line police services to be provided through the use of these Supplemental Law Enforcement Funds. The purpose of this Staff Report is to make that request for funding as per the Government Code.

I am requesting that one-hundred percent of all AB3229 "COPS" funds that are received by the city continue to be used to fund a portion of the salaries for two (2) Police Officers. The city of Lafayette normally allocates the $100,000 in the budget in anticipation of the COPS funds. This year we had information that the state would be cutting money from this program. At this time, it is unknown if the state budget has allocated money for the COPS program but, failure to request the COPS funding at this time would prevent the city from obtaining the monies should they be allocated.

The addition of these officers increases the total sworn staff of the Lafayette Police Department from 15 to 17, which equates to an 11.3% increase in manpower. These additional officers obviously fit the definition of "frontline police services" and provide traffic and general law enforcement services that the city desperately needs.

Fiscal Impact

The City of Lafayette must allocate Supplemental Law Enforcement Funds as detailed in Government Code Section 30061(c)(1). Failure to do so would cost the city a minimum of $100,000 in state funding.

Recommendation

I recommend that Council approve the appropriation of COPS funding in the City of Lafayette Proposed Budget & Workplan for fiscal year 2008-2009 under fund 73, program 920, Supplemental Law Enforcement Services.